



*Meriwether  
Lewis*

**US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
and the  
LEWIS AND CLARK  
BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION**



*William Clark*

**“Summer of Peace”**  
Lewiston, ID Signature Event  
June 5-17, 2006  
After Action Report

**Background:** In 2000, the National Council for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial decided to highlight some of the more nationally significant festivals and events and call them “Signature Events”. These events were to be those of nationwide historical significance, have the potential of high visitation, and be multicultural in nature. The “Summer of Peace” was designated as the twelfth of these Signature Events.

The event was held at Lewis-Clark College in Lewiston, ID with the Opening Ceremonies for the core Signature Event in Lapwai, ID. The weather for the event was clear and hot with temps in the upper 80’s to low 90’s.

Corps representatives working the event included Jeff Lockwood and Renea Guin (both MVK), Rick Magee (NAE); Larry Spisak (LRP); Craig Rockwell, Jeanne Newton, and Deb Norton (all NWW); Heather Burke (SAJ); Jeff Boutwell, Ed Shirley, Robby Henderson, and Terry Schmidt (all SWF); Charlie Deutsch, Tim Bischoff, and Norma Hall (all MVS); Hilary Bragg (MVR); Kelly Thomas, Jon Carlson, and Susan James (all NWP); John Derby (LRN), Rick Magee (MVP); Rebecca Miner (SPA); Ken Wilk (NWK); and Jean Nauss (NWO). All took turns at manning the various venues during the week. In addition, James McElhinney, a representative of the Frontier Army Living History Association also participated in the event.

School programs were conducted by various Federal agencies at the event site from June 5 through 9. Although the event was open to the public during that time period, the majority of the public came to the event on the weekend of June 10/11 and June 14-17.

On Wednesday, June 14, the core portion of the Signature Event began and continued through Saturday, June 17. The Opening Ceremonies, conducted by the Nez Perce Tribe were held at Lapwai, ID. Representing the Corps of Engineers at event opening were Renea Guin (MVK), John Derby (LRN), Rebecca Miner (SPA), Jeff Boutwell and Robby Henderson (both SWF).

**Action:** The Corps was involved in 8 separate venues during this commemorative event – COE Exhibit; Corps of Discovery II keelboat; presentations in TOMV; a water safety

exhibit; an artifact tent; and the reenactment encampment of Captain Lewis Company discovery tent, and video presentation

COE Exhibit: The Corps exhibit was part of a contingent of Federal, State and local agencies and communities sponsoring an exhibit. All of the Federal exhibits were grouped together in the Whitson Center Parking Lot on the southwest corner of the campus. The Corps exhibit had six parts – (1) a 3-part exhibit backdrop with a description of the Lewis and Clark Expedition on one panel, the Missouri River on another panel, and the Corps' mitigation efforts on the third panel; (2) a display of the Discovery Box; (3) an information table that contained a variety of COE brochures (4) the 5 Michael Haynes prints that the Corps had commissioned; and (5) a "trading center". This was an attempt to engage more people and especially kids in the booth to peak their interest in the expedition

There were a total of 3255 interpretive contacts at the exhibit booth during the Signature Event.

Corps of Discovery 2 – 200 Years to the Future (aka: Corps 2) – The Corps 2 exhibit itself consists of approximately 32 panels with an associated audiotope headset that discuss Jefferson's vision; Lewis, Clark, and the members of the expedition; with the remainder depicting the natural resources and the Native American influences on the expedition. In addition, Raystown Lake Project (NAB) constructed and donated a ½-size land-based replica of a keelboat. Visitors were encouraged to come into the keelboat for interpretive programs about the expedition. During the Signature Event, all COE park rangers attending the event provided interpretive talks and information to dignitaries and members of the public visiting the keelboat exhibit. This resulted in approximately 3286 interpretive contacts.

#### Tent Of Many Voices (TOMV)

Associated with Corps II, TOMV has a small stage for presentations and seating capacity of 150. Speaking at this venue were Heather Burke ("Hardships of the Expedition" with 21 contacts), Ed Shirley ("Provisioning the Expedition" with 20 contacts), Larry Spisak ("Music of the Expedition" with 52 contacts), and Craig Rockwell ("Reflections of Captain Clark" & "Cpt. Clark and a Nez Perce Elder Reminisce Their Time Together on the Lewis and Clark Trail" with 315 contacts).

#### Water Safety Exhibit:

Because of the water traffic on the Columbia River and the number of commercial fishermen in the area, the Corps was asked to set up a Water Safety display. In charge of the exhibit was Kelly Thomas (NWP). All other park rangers rotated through daily to assist at the exhibit.

Items included in the water safety exhibit are their descriptions were as follows. 1.

Captain Alcohol - Drunk goggles were worn by someone then they were asked to walk a straight line, put on a PFD, put the key into a boat ignition, turn on the bilge, blower and wipers. The intent was to give them the feeling of being drunk and then driving a boat.

2 Seamoor, a remote controlled water safety sea serpent. Seamoor routinely wandered through the crowds around the L&C Exhibit talking about water safety. 3. Hypothermia

tank (with Lewis and Clark coins along with pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters in ice cold water. Kids were asked to put hand in the water and count to 10 then pick up coins. We then talked about the color of the skin and hypothermia. 4. Life jackets (On display were all the different kinds of life jackets (PFD's) so floatation, fit, usage, etc. could be explained. 5. Rescue sequence (Hoola hoops, throw bags, and throw rings were on hand to demonstrate how to get the rescue device inside the hoola hoop. The proper rescue sequence was also explained (talk, reach, throw, row, don't go). 6. Also on hand were plenty of brochures, hand outs, and give-away (small plastic footballs, Frisbees, stick-on tattoos, posters, coloring books, bobbers. Some of this material was in both English and Spanish. The water safety display was very well received by those who visited. Approximately 3203 interpretive contacts were made at this venue.

Artifact tent – Because of the popularity of displaying artifacts at other events, the Corps team developed an artifact tent in which there were a variety of items (primarily medical supplies, topographical instruments, and writing implements) from the 1800-1810 time frame as well as animal pelts that would have been seen and collected by the expedition. The exhibit was manned by Craig Rockwell dressed as Capt. Clark and assisted by uniformed Park Rangers. Roughly 2155 interpretive contacts were made.

Captain Lewis Company - Members of the Corps' Captain Lewis' Company as well as a member of the Frontier Army Living History Association provided costumed interpretation (1803 Army) at the event site. Participating in this endeavor were Jeff Boutwell, Robby Henderson, and Ed Shirley (all SWF); Larry Spisak (LRP); Jon Carlson (NWP); Tim Bischoff and Charlie Deutsch (both MVS); Rick Magee (NAE); and Ken Wilk (NWK). Also participating was a member of the Frontier Army Living History Association (Jim McElhinney). During the 13-day event, 3024 interpretive contacts were made in camp.

Discovery Tent - School programs were conducted by various Federal agencies at the event site from June 5 through 9. On one day, COE representatives assisted in the Discovery Tent set up for some of the younger children. Activities included story-telling, coloring, nature talks, etc. Unfortunately, because of scheduling conflicts and time available, COE representatives only saw roughly 248 students.

#### “Lewis and Clark: A Confluence of Time and Courage” Video Presentation

During the core portion of the Signature Event (14-17 June), the 30-minute education version of the video produced by the NWD L&C team was shown at the Neptune Theater once each day. This was the one venue that was not very well advertised. Only those that happened by the theater knew that it was even showing. In all, only 585 people viewed the movie for the entire 4-day period.

Indirect Contacts: In the course of the Signature Event, newspapers, radio, and television reporters contacted several Corps representatives. In all, 5 print and 1 television indirect news contacts were made.

#### **Lessons learned**

1. This event, the Federal agency exhibit portion was not really advertised as being a part of the Signature Event. On the diagonal across campus from the vendors and tribal

exhibits, the visitation was much lower than it could have been. More signs were needed directing visitors from one end of campus to the other end.

2. The mix of folks in the exhibit area was much more organized than at other events. Only Federal and State agencies were in the exhibit area. The merchandize vendors were in a separate location. This was helpful in that visitors were not trying to “buy” pieces of the exhibit and it made it much easier for the agencies to coordinate efforts and support each other.

3. It was a good event, except that not as many people came as anticipated. That may be because Corps II was in Clarkston, WA just last year (right across the Snake River from Lewiston). Many of the folks that came to the event last year may have decided that they had already seen everything and didn't realize there would be additional exhibits.

4. Having the school children coming to the event site was a great idea. However, because most area schools had already dismissed for the year, the attendance was much less than what it could have been. Had the school programs been done in April or early May, many more area children could have taken part. In addition, schools were only allowed 2 hours to visit the site. Schedules were very regimented so there was no time for students to look at things for which they weren't scheduled.

**Future outcome:** The next Signature Event will be “Clark on the Yellowstone” to be held July 21-25, 2006 at Pompeys Pillar near Billings, MT. The nature of the Corps and Army presence at this event will be huge. The Corps is continuing to work with event organizers as well as the National L&C Council to ensure the presence of all of the Federal MOU agencies.

**Final thoughts:** The Corps of Engineers contingent was always one of the first to arrive at the event site every morning and one of the last to leave every night. All of the COE participants went out of their way to help out wherever possible. This included assisting other exhibitors getting set up every morning.